

2.2.1-151 Quick Write (Balcony Scene)

Romeo and Juliet

Close Reading Directions: Read the following passage; it is the second scene in the second act in *Romeo and Juliet*. As you read, Mark the Text and Write in the Margins using the following guidelines.

Mark the Text:

- Box unknown words/phrases
- Circle important nouns
- Underline important details
- 1. Highlight anything that you notice about *how* the scene is set up; where are the characters on the set? when/how do they interact?
- 2. Highlight anything you notice about the way Romeo and Juliet speak; what are they concerned about?
- 3. Highlight Romeo's desires, concerns, and fears.
- 4. Highlight Juliet's desires, concerns, and fears.

Write in the Margins:

1. Why might Shakespeare craft the scene so that the audience is aware of Romeo's presence before Juliet is?
2. What can you infer about Romeo and Juliet by comparing their use of language? Consider their main concerns in this excerpt.
3. How do Romeo's desires, concerns, and fears change throughout his interactions with Juliet in this scene?
4. How do Juliet's desires, concerns, and fears change throughout her interactions with Romeo in this scene?

2.2.1-151

*[Enter Romeo]***Romeo**

1 He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

[Enter Juliet above at a window.]

But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?

It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!

Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,

5 Who is already sick and pale with grief
That thou her maid art far more fair than she.

Be not her maid, since she is envious;

Her vestal livery is but sick and green,

And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.

10 It is my lady; O, it is my love!

O that she knew she were!

She speaks, yet she says nothing. What of that?

Her eye discourses; I will answer it.

I am too bold; 'tis not to me she speaks.

15 Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,

Having some business, do entreat her eyes

To twinkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head?

The brightness of her cheek would shame those

stars

20 As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven

Would through the airy region stream so bright

That birds would sing and think it were not night.

See how she leans her cheek upon her hand!

O that I were a glove upon that hand,

25 That I might touch that cheek!

Juliet

Ay me!

Romeo

She speaks.

O, speak again, bright angel! for thou art

As glorious to this night, being o'er my head,

30 As is a winged messenger of heaven

Unto the white-upturned wond'ring eyes

Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him

When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds

And sails upon the bosom of the air.

Juliet

35 O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo!

Deny thy father and refuse thy name!

Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,

And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

Romeo*[Aside]*

Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at

40 this?

Juliet

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy.

Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.

85 And but thou love me, let them find me here.

My life were better ended by their hate

Than death prorogued, waiting of thy love.

45

What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,

Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part

Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!

What's in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet.

So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,

Retain that dear perfection which he owes

50 Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name;

And for that name, which is no part of thee,

Take all myself.

Romeo

I take thee at thy word.

Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized;

55 Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

Juliet

What man art thou that, thus bescreened in

night,

So stumblest on my counsel?

Romeo

By a name

60

I know not how to tell thee who I am.

My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,

Because it is an enemy to thee.

Had I it written, I would tear the word.

Juliet

My ears have yet not drunk a hundred words

65 Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the sound.

Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

Romeo

Neither, fair saint, if either thee dislike.

JulietHow camest thou hither, tell me, and
wherefore?

70

The orchard walls are high and hard to climb,

And the place death, considering who thou art,

If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

RomeoWith love's light wings did I o'erperch these
walls;

75

For stony limits cannot hold love out,

And what love can do, that dares love attempt.

Therefore thy kinsmen are no let to me.

Juliet

If they do see thee, they will murder thee.

Romeo

Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye

80

Than twenty of their swords! Look thou but sweet,

And I am proof against their enmity.

Juliet

I would not for the world they saw thee here.

RomeoI have night's cloak to hide me from their
sight;

Juliet
By whose direction foundst thou out this place?

Romeo
By love, that first did prompt me to enquire.
90 He lent me counsel, and I lent him eyes.
I am no pilot, yet, wert thou as far
As that vast shore washed with the farthest sea,
I would adventure for such merchandise.

Juliet
Thou knowest the mask of night is on my face;
95 Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek
For that which thou hast heard me speak tonight.
Fain would I dwell on form - fain, fain deny
What I have spoke; but farewell compliment!
Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say "Ay";
100 And I will take thy word. Yet, if thou swearst,
Thou mayst prove false. At lovers' prejuries,
They say Jove laughs. O gentle Romeo,
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully.
Or if thou thinkst I am too quickly won,
105 I'll frown, and be perverse, and say thee nay,
So thou wilt woo; but else, not for the world.
In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond,
And therefore thou mayst think my 'havior light;
But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true
110 Than those that have more cunning to be strange.
I should have been more strange, I must confess,
But that thou overheardst, ere I was ware,
My true love's passion. Therefore pardon me,
And not impute this yielding to light love,
115 Which the dark night hath so discovered.

Romeo
Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear,
That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops-

Juliet
O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant
moon,
120 That monthly changes in her circled orb,
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

Romeo
What shall I swear by?

Juliet
Or if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,
Which is the god of my idolatry,
125 And I'll believe thee.

Romeo
If my heart's dear love -

Juliet
Well, do not swear. Although I joy in thee,
I have no joy of this contract tonight.
It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden;
130 Too like lightning, which doth cease to be
Ere one can say "It lightens." Sweet, good night!
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,
May prove a beauteous flow'r when next we meet.
Good night, good night! As sweet repose and rest
135 Come to thy heart as that within my breast!

Romeo
O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

Juliet
What satisfaction canst thou have tonight?

Romeo
The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

Juliet
140 I gave thee mine before thou didst request it;
And yet I would it were to give again.

Romeo
Wouldst thou withdraw it? For what purpose,
love?

Juliet
But to be frank and give it thee again.

145 And yet I wish but for the thing I have.
My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
My love as deep; the more I give to thee,
The more I have, for both are infinite.
I hear some noise within. Dear love, adieu!

[Nurse calls within.]

150 Anon, good nurse! Sweet Montague, be true.
Stay but a little, I will come again.

[Exit.]

Quick Write Directions: Pick one of the following writing prompts and answer it in paragraph form. Want extra credit? Do 2 or 3 or all 4 of the prompts.

1. Why might Shakespeare craft the scene so that the audience is aware of Romeo's presence before Juliet is?
2. What can you infer about Romeo and Juliet by comparing their use of language? Consider their main concerns in this excerpt.
3. How do Romeo's desires, concerns, and fears change throughout his interactions with Juliet in this scene?
4. How do Juliet's desires, concerns, and fears change throughout her interactions with Romeo in this scene?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.